

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL BICYCLE TASK FORCE AND
PEDESTRIAN WORKING GROUP

Tuesday, May 16, 2000
MAG Office Building, Suite 200 - Saguaro Room
302 North First Avenue, Phoenix

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Patrick McDermott, Chandler, Chair,
Regional Bicycle Task Force
Cynthia Seelhammer, Queen Creek, Chair,
Pedestrian Working Group
* Michael Eagan, American Society of
Landscape Architects
Bruce Meyers, Arizona Department of
Administration
*Mark Mansfield, ADOT
*Mickey Ohland, Chandler
Tami Ryall, Gilbert
Debbie Burdette, Glendale
Janeen K. Holomon, Goodyear

* Mike Cartsonis, Litchfield Park
Reed Kempton, Maricopa County
Steve Hancock, Mesa
Tracy Stevens for Chris Jacques, Peoria
Lorry Kuiper, Phoenix Planning Department
Mark Melnychenko, Phoenix Transit
Kristina Fields, Phoenix
Maureen Mageau-DeCindis, RPTA
Amy MacAulay, Scottsdale
Jorie Bresnahan, Scottsdale
Eric Iwersen, Tempe

*Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Dawn M. Coomer, MAG
Blue Crowley, Citizen
Carl Stephani, Gila Bend

Ron Tatasciore, e group
J.D. Trebec, Maricopa County Planning

1. Call to Order

Cynthia Seelhammer, chair of the Pedestrian Working Group, called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

2. Approval of the April 18, 2000 Meeting Minutes of the Regional Bicycle Task Force and Pedestrian Working Group

Steve Hancock moved to approve the meeting minutes of the April 18, 2000 meeting. Eric Iwersen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Call to the Audience

No members of the audience wished to address the Task Force and Working Group.

4. Staff Report

Dawn Coomer provided a status report of current transportation items. She began by describing the schedule for Round VIII of Transportation Enhancement Funds. Members of all MAG transportation committees, the Management Committee and planning directors from member agencies have all received a memorandum with the schedule information. Major events include a workshop for potential applicants on May 31. Applications are due to MAG on July 12, 2000. The Task Force and Working Group will be asked to meet the week of July 24 to evaluate any bicycle and pedestrian applications. Task Force and Working Group members were asked to consider if they would like to participate in the evaluation.

Dawn continued by giving a status report on the West Valley Multi-Modal Transportation Corridor Plan. The draft data collection paper has been completed, and changes were currently being made to the paper. The consultant is working to create a project identity which will graphically depict the partners in the project as well as its purpose. The next major public event will be a design charette in September, 2000. Members will be kept apprized of any public meetings.

Dawn recognized significant events worthy of celebration. Steve Hancock has accepted a new job in North Carolina. Reed Kempton and Debbie Burdette have both recently graduated. And, Maureen Mageau-DeCindis did an excellent job in assisting Dawn with planning of the Pedestrian Conference. A summary of the evaluation forms was distributed to members of the Task Force and Working Group.

5. Member Agency Report

Committee members were invited to provide an update of bicycle and pedestrian planning activity in their agencies. Bruce Meyers noted that the 17th Avenue project, which had been designed through the Pedestrian Design Assistance program and will be constructed with ADOT Transportation Enhancement Funds, will soon be constructed. Reed Kempton noted that Mia Burke and Matt Zoll will be leading a class on the revisions to the AASHTO and MUTCD standards. The class will be held on June 12. Reed asked interested members to call him.

3. Call to the Audience

Pat McDermott recognized Blue Crowley, who arrived late to the meeting but wished to address the Working Group and Task Force. He expressed appreciation for the off-street planning efforts, but said that more effort was needed for the on-road plan. He asked why the Phoenix and ADOT bicycle staff were not present at the meeting. He said that the state employees should have better bicycle parking for employees and others, and that no government employee should have a parking space. A tunnel is

needed for bicyclists and pedestrians at 1-17 and the Grand Canal. Better bicycle access s needed to Maryvale stadium.

6. Status Report on the Regional Off-Street System Plan

MAG staff provided a status report on the ROSS Plan, including the overall project schedule, identification of potential routes, corridor evaluation, and model projects for use in developing performance standards. Dawn Coomer began by reviewing the revised schedule for the ROSS plan. The schedule was being delayed to allow for time to collect data, and to address issues involved with creating the evaluation criteria. A revised map of potential routes will be ready for the next committee meeting in June. A Regional Trails Forum, which is the stakeholders group for the ROSS plan, will be held in June just after the committee meeting.

Dawn continued by explaining that the evaluation criteria would not be used to develop the planned corridors as originally outlined in the scope of work. This change was to respond to committee concerns about the potential mis-use of evaluation criteria. Rather the evaluation criteria would be documented for member agencies to use as they wish. The main goal of the off-street plan is to help increase funding for off-street routes used for bicycle and pedestrian travel, so it seemed that as many corridors as possible would be included in the final plan.

The next step is to address design standards and the process to implement various types of facilities on the many types of corridors. To demonstrate how to address different issues, such as the crossing of arterials and creating facilities where the primary purpose of the corridor may not be non-motorized transportation, three demonstration projects have been selected. The three projects, which are in Maricopa County near El Mirage, Tempe and near Queen Creek, were described. The first project in Maricopa County near El Mirage runs along Northern Avenue from Reems Road to Litchfield Road. The second project in Tempe is a rail-to-trail project along the Creamery Branch rail spur. The Tempe project runs east-west from University and McAllister to nearly McClintock. The final demonstration project is in Queen Creek, and includes a canal, flood control structure, railway crossing and transmission line easement. Cynthia Seelhammer noted that this project was not in Queen Creek. The project is in Mesa and Gilbert, but Queen Creek owns the railway. She asked if the railway could be included in the project, and Dawn said she would check this with the consultant.

Amy MacAulay asked how the model projects were selected, and if they were implementable projects. She also asked about the level of design of the projects. Dawn responded that the Working Group and Task Force were asked to provide model projects at the past several meetings. Tempe had recommended a project, which seemed to be a project which could be built. The other two projects were selected because they were in different geographic areas of the region and included the types of corridors that might be developed as off-street travel ways. For each project, schematic design would be done.

7 Regional Bikeways Map Update Schedule

There is \$40,000 in the FY 2001-2005 Transportation Improvement Program for updating the Regional Bikeways Map. Dawn Coomer presented a draft schedule to the committee for review and comment. She said that the update would begin by contacting members of the Task Force and Street Committee requesting information to update the map. The Task Force would be asked to select a printer at their June committee meeting. Two reminder letters would be mailed out to cities, and each would be called as well. Staff would work on revising the map in August and September. The maps could be printed in October and distributed in November. After describing the timeline, she asked if it was realistic. She said that the previous map update had taken much longer, but she felt the project was possible to complete this calendar if the committee was committed to helping to provide the necessary information. The committee discussed this, and agreed that if MAG staff diligently reminded members to provide information that it would be possible to keep to the schedule.

Amy MacAulay asked if the committee would like to discuss what types of facilities should be on the map. The committee discussed this, and also if standard definitions of facilities should be used. Eric Iwersen noted that the Regional Bicycle Plan has standard definitions that could be used. A member noted that the blue used for edge lines was difficult to distinguish from the blue used for bike lanes. It was generally agreed that each member agency could determine what types of facilities to include on the map. Dawn asked the committee to provide her with copies of local bike maps for ideas on what to include on the bike map, such as safety information, definitions of facilities, etc.

7. Update on the Pedestrian Design Assistance Program

In April, 1999, three member agencies were awarded funds to design pedestrian projects in accordance with the MAG Pedestrian Area Policies and Design Guidelines. The Town of Gila Bend Central Pedestrian Way has been designed. The City of Peoria is designing a pedestrian crossing at Grand Avenue/ Burlington Northern-Santa Fe, and has been awarded transportation enhancement funds to construct the project. The City of Phoenix is developing a plan for the Laveen Watercourse/Greenbelt Pedestrian Trail. Several guests will provide status reports and information on these projects: Carl Stephani, Gila Bend; Ron Tatascoire, e group; Lorry Kuiper, Phoenix; Tracy Stevens, Peoria.

The discussion began with Carl Stephani providing an overview of the Gila Bend project. He said the project generated much community interest and helped citizens think about the urban form of the community. He described the study area and the community of Gila Bend. He said the project will be used to provide a focal point to the entire area, and that the construction documents created would not have been able to be funded through the Town's funds. He thanked the Working Group for their support of Gila Bend through the Design Assistance Program. Maureen Mageau-DeCindis asked to see pictures of the project once its constructed.

Next, Tracy Stevens showed a map of the Peoria project. She identified and described the study area. The project has generated significant interest from adjacent property owners. The most likely alternative was described, and Tracy noted that the railroad had been slow to respond and provide comment.

However, Tracy said that the most likely alternative will not prevent the project from being constructed. She concluded by stating that this project has already received funding for construction through the ADOT Transportation Enhancement Fund Program.

Lorry Kuiper provided an overview of the Laveen project. Ron Tatasciore showed displays of the two alternatives and described the alternatives. He showed several photographs of possible design alternatives, and mentioned that the community has been very involved throughout this project. A committee member asked if ADOT has been involved, and Ron responded that ADOT is a stakeholder in the planning process.

8. FY 2001 Pedestrian Design Assistance Program Schedule

There is approximately \$125,000 available in FY 2001 (July 1, 2000 to June 31, 2001) for the Pedestrian Design Assistance Program. Staff has developed a draft schedule, which was enclosed with the agenda. However, the schedule had to be revised since it will be necessary to re-advertise for the on-call consultant list. The new on-call list will be valid for three years. Dawn Coomer described the updated schedule, which will begin with a call for projects in early September. The Working Group agreed that it would be acceptable to review consultant proposals and design assistance applications at the same time.

9. Next Meeting

The Pedestrian Working Group and Regional Bicycle Task Force will meet on June 20, 2000 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. A Regional Trails Forum will follow from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.